(b) The funds provided under various schemes for pollution control during the current financial year 1996-97 are as under :

Sl No	Name of the Scheme	Budget Estimate 1996-97	
		Plan	Non-Plan
1	Grants-in-Aid to Central Pollution Control Board	475.00	488.00
2	Reimbursement of Water Cess to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards/UT Pollution Control Committees	—	3825.00
3	Assistance for abatement of pollution—Grants-in-Aid to State Pollution Control Boards/UT Pollution Control Committees/States/Institutions for specific studies, etc.	130.00	—
4	Continuation of Environmental Monitoring unit (Head Quarters and Agra Observatory under Agency Scheme	6.50	—
5	Promotion of Common Effluent Treatment Plants Externally Aided Schemes—Grants-in-Aid	300.00	—
6	Pollution Control Projects Externally Aided Schemes (World Bank)—Grants-in-Aid	1400.00	—
7	Environmental Audit	10.00	—
8	Environmental Statistics and Mapping	10.00	—
9	Clean Technologies by Small Scale Industries	10.00	—
10	Ganga Action Plan Phase-I	2200.00	—
11	Ganga Action Plan Ph-II	7000.00	—
12	National River Conservation Projects (NRCP)	1400.00	—

(c) (d) and (e) In some schemes, funds have remained under utilized. The reasons mainly are due to slow release of matching share by State Governments concerned, delay in clearance of projects by external funding agencies, delay in procurement of equipment by procuring agents, encroachment/non-availability of Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) sites, litigations and delay in receipt of proposals from benefitting agencies.

The Central Government is monitoring the performance closely. Interaction with the State Governments and the implementing agencies has been intensified.

Sri Lankan Refugees

4077. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Tamil speaking refugees from Sri Lanka who have arrived in India since the early part of this year;

(b) whether the Government have provided any special funds for the Tamil Nadu Government to look after the refugees;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to the State Government to verify the antecedents of these refugees;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the matter has been taken up with the Sri Lankan Government for deporting these refugees; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) As per information furnished by the Government of Tamil Nadu, a total of 963 Sri Lankan Tamils have arrived in the State since February, 1996.

(b) Sanctions have already been issued to the Government of Tamil Nadu for incurring expenditure on providing relief assistance to Sri Lankan refugees accommodated in refugee camps. The actual expenditure incurred by the State Government is being reimbursed by the Government of India.

(c) and (d) Instructions have already been issued to the Government of Tamil Nadu for interrogating and screening the Sri Lankan refugees before they are admitted to the refugee camps.

(e) and (f) As per the policy followed by Government of India, bonafide Sri Lankan refugees are repatriated to their home country on voluntary basis, without using any force, in consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka.

Combating International Crimes

4078. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with Egypt to combat the international crimes during October, 95; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During PM's visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt in October 95, an Agreement to combat all forms of criminal acts particularly those relating to terrorists, transnational and organized crime was signed. This agreement is aimed to achieve better coordination and cooperation between the two countries so as to effectively deal with the menace of terrorism and organized crime.

The agreement aims at exchange of information about activities and crimes of terrorist groups, their membership, leadership, locations and means of finance and arms they use. Also, it is proposed to exchange information on various methods of anti-terrorist organizations and information pertaining to scientific and technological experience in the field of protection and security of sea, air and rail transportation. In addition, both countries shall be in position to exchange information relating to modern methods and techniques about transnational organized crime combating agencies. The data regarding joint measures to ensure combating of crimes and offences such as money smuggling, smuggling of antiques and art-objects and illegal marketing of vehicles shall be also exchanged.

Travelling Concessions for Senior Citizens

4079. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to bring down the cut off age for eligibility of senior citizens for travelling in trains to sixty years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to increasing cost of operations and resource constraints, Railways do not propose to extend the scope of concessions, by bringing down the cut off age from 65 years to 60 years.

Railway Recruitment Board

4080. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Recruitment Board, Patna had invited applications for the posts of Commercial Clerks, Office Clerks, Ticket Collectors etc., vide advertisement number RRB-PAT-2-90-91;

(b) whether majority of the selected candidates have not been issued joining letters since the year 1992;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to issue joining letters to the selected candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Due to shrinkage of work in various railway units, surrender of posts and a number of staff being rendered surplus, involving their re-deployment in alternative categories including those for which the selection was held. In view of this it is not possible to fix a target date for issue of offers of appointment.

Computerized Close Circuits

4081. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways propose to instal computerized close circuits at various railway stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the purpose of installing these computerized close circuits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways are contemplating the proposal to instal computerized close circuit TVs at Railway Stations, Yards, Good-Sheds, Parcel Offices and Workshops which are vulnerable to crimes with a view to preventing pilferage of parcels and goods booked by Rail Users as well as other Railway property. The feasibility of the proposal is under examination keeping in view the financial implications and the effectiveness of the system.

[Translation]

Stoppage of Local Trains

4082. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the stoppage of local trains at Kochagarah Station (between Telo and Chandrapura) of the Eastern Railway has been cancelled;

(b) if so, the reasons for depriving the people of this area of the rail service;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore the stoppage of local trains at the said station; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.